

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 000438

SIPDIS

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STATE PASS DOE FOR DAS JBRODMAN AND CGAY
TREASURY FOR ASEVERENS AND SRENENDER
COMMERCE FOR KBURRESS
STATE PASS TRANSPORTATION FOR MARAD
STATE PASS USAID FOR GWEYNAND AND SLAWAETZ
STATE FOR DS/IP/AF, AF/EX, DS/IP/OPO, DS/ICI/PII, DS/DSS/ITA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/23/2016

TAGS: [EPET](#) [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [CASC](#) [NI](#) [HOSTAGES](#)

SUBJECT: NIGERIA: HOSTAGE-TAKING, SITREP # 32

REF: LAGOS 431

Classified By: Acting Political/Economic Chief Shannon Ross
for reasons 1.4 (D/E).

Hostage Welfare Update

[1](#)1. (C) Wilbros arranged for video tapes of appeals from
Russel Spell and Cody Oswalt's families.

Hostage Negotiations

[1](#)2. (C) Shell sources reported the GON was growing impatient
with the negotiation process and the lack of clarity on the
ground, and wanted the five federal ministers sent yesterday
to "sort things out". The GON does not believe Delta State
Governor Ibori is speaking with the right people.

[1](#)3. (C) Warri sources report the hostages will be released
soon, possibly within the next 48 hours, but there is no
evidence to corroborate their claim. They said one of the
primary holdups revolves around compensation money to be paid
to the militants and continued assurances of no military
reprisals.

[1](#)4. (C) Diamond Bank Executive Director Uzoma Dozie said
militia men stormed and attacked one of their branch banks in
Onne area, Rivers State six days ago, searching for "feeding
money," allegedly to keep the hostages going. He claimed the
number of raids on banks usually increased when militant
youths held hostages, and were strapped of cash. Diamond
Bank has begun building a bullet-proof door to beef up
security at its Onne Branch.

Energy Update

[1](#)5. (C) AGIP declared a force majeure on its Nigerian crude
exports. Total shut-in production of crude oil remains at
approximately 630,000 bpd.

Military Update

[1](#)6. (C) There were no significant military developments.

Media Update

[1](#)7. (SBU) Numerous dailies quoted the Federal Minister of
Science and Technology, Turner Isoun, reiterating the GON's
position that negotiations with the militants would only
begin after the three remaining hostages were released.

Consular Update

[1](#)8. (C) There have been no reports of additional attacks on
AmCits. One mission Conoff and three FEST members (one
Department of State and two FBI) are in Warri monitoring
negotiations and prepared to assist with repatriation. The
UK also has a consular officer in Warri to monitor
negotiations and assist with repatriation. The head of Shell
Security is on standby for repatriation assistance.
HOWE